Escape of Prime Accused in the Bombay blast Case

*191. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minsiter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prime accused in the Bombay blast case escaped and fled to Srinagar; and

(b) if so, what are the efforts made by Government to apprehend him?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) There is no information regarding any of the prime accused in the Bombay blast case having fled to Srinagar.

(b) Does not arise.

□ *192[*Transferred to 23.12.93*]

Privatisation of Railways

*193. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to privatise on convert railways into a public sector corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the American and British experiences of deregulation and privatisation of railway, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to conduct a study into the experiences of the American and British models in this behalf in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no such proposal.

High berthing and docking charges in Visakhapatnam fishing harbour

*194. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been drawn up by his Ministry to reduce or subsidise the high berthing and dry-docking charges in Visakhapatnam fishing harbour;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether this aspect of high operating costs of the deep-sea fishing industry has been examined by Government; and

(d) if so, the what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The berth hire charges for fishing vessels in Visakhapatnam were fixed in April, 1978, when the harbour was commissioned, without taking into account the interest charges and return on capital. In spite of increase in operational expenditure of the harbour, due to wage revision of Port and Dock workers in 1980, 1984 and 1988, there was no further increase in berth hire charges. Moreover, penal charges of trawlers were withdrawn during offseason period. As regards dry docking, very nominal rate plus actual amount of slipway charges are being charged. Harbour charges depend on the capital expenditure and cost of operation and maintenance of the harbour.

Enforcement of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

*195. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of mines